

Psalm 111:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

Analysis

This verse explains what motivates praise: 'The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.' 'Great' (Hebrew 'gadol') means not merely large but significant, magnificent, and worthy of attention. 'Works' encompasses God's creative acts, historical interventions, providential care, and redemptive deeds. The phrase 'sought out' (Hebrew 'darash') implies diligent searching, investigation, and meditation - not casual observation but intentional study. Those who 'have pleasure therein' (Hebrew 'chefetz') delight in, desire, and treasure God's works. The verse establishes that God's works are inherently great, but their greatness is discovered through careful examination. This creates a reciprocal relationship: delight in God's works motivates seeking them, and seeking them increases delight. The verse implicitly rebukes superficial faith that doesn't seriously study God's revealed character and actions. It elevates meditation and study as acts of worship.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, knowing God's 'works' involved recounting salvation history - the exodus, wilderness provision, conquest, and preservation through enemies. These narratives were rehearsed regularly in worship (Deuteronomy 6:20-25, Psalms 78, 105, 106). The command to 'seek out' God's works connects to the wisdom tradition where students are encouraged to search for understanding like hidden treasure (Proverbs 2:1-5). In the post-exilic period, the study of Torah became central to Jewish identity, with scribes and teachers carefully examining God's

word and works. The phrase 'all them that have pleasure therein' describes genuine seekers - those who study God's works not merely as academic exercise but as spiritual pursuit. This anticipates Jesus's teaching that those who seek will find (Matthew 7:7). Church history shows that revival and renewal often accompany recovered study of Scripture and meditation on God's mighty acts. The verse validates intellectual engagement with God's revelation as an act of worship.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What are 'the works of the LORD' that should be the object of our study and meditation?
2. How does 'seeking out' God's works differ from casual or superficial reading of Scripture?
3. What is the relationship between delight in God's works and diligent study of them?
4. Why does careful examination of God's works lead to greater praise?
5. In what practical ways can believers cultivate the practice of 'seeking out' God's works?

Interlinear Text

are great	The works	of the LORD	sought out	לכל
H1419	H4639	H3068	H1875	H3605

לְפָנֵיכֶם:

of all them that have pleasure

H2656

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:24 (References Lord): O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Psalms 139:14 (Parallel theme): I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Psalms 143:5 (Parallel theme): I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

Proverbs 24:14 (Parallel theme): So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 17:16 (Parallel theme): Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

Ephesians 1:19 (Parallel theme): And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (Parallel theme): He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

Daniel 4:3 (Parallel theme): How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

Revelation 15:3 (References Lord): And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Job 37:7 (Parallel theme): He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work.